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STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

Vol. 46 No. 351 Pages: 12 Rs. 3.00
Ph: 2496520 / 21 / 22 / 23
E-mail: voice@starofmysore.com
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MYSURU Monday 12th February 2024
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Budget Session begins

Governor's address focuses on five guarantees; Opposition accuses Government of publicising lies through Governor's address

Bengaluru, Feb. 12 (KMS & DM)- The Budget Session of the State Legislature commenced at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru this morning with Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot addressing both Houses.

The Governor began his address by stating, "My Government, elected with the support, recognition and trust of the people in the State Assembly elections held last May, is committed to unity in both word and deed."

He highlighted the effectiveness of the Government's five guarantee schemes in alleviating economic disparities and providing relief to those in need. Additionally, he noted that despite the State facing drought conditions, instances of farmer suicides have decreased compared to the previous year, emphasising the Government's stance against such tragedies.

The Governor continued by discussing the Government's efforts to formulate a new education policy aimed at preparing youth to seize opportunities arising from technological innovations and fostering entrepreneurship. He expressed confidence that the State's educational progress would be enhanced further to meet both present and future needs.

(See SESSION on page 6)

Tree crash at Ashokapuram hampers traffic movement

Mysuru, Feb. 12 (RK&KS)- A massive tree obstructed the 13th Cross Road, near the National Institute of Engineering (NIE) Women's Hostel at Ashokapuram in the city, causing significant traffic disruption for more than one hour this morning.

Fortunately, there were no injuries, loss of life or property damage reported. It was discovered that a few days prior, unidentified individuals had ignited a fire at the base of the tree, weakening its structure and leading to its collapse around 7 am today. Fortunately, the road was devoid of pedestrian or vehicular traffic at that early hour, averting potential tragedy.

(See TREE on page 7)

VOICE OF THE READER

EXPOSED NUTS & BOLTS

Road hump near MCC Chief's house poses danger

Sir,

Unscientific, faulty-designed and worn-out speed humps present significant risks and have often tragically proven fatal for two-wheeler riders while also potentially causing spinal injuries and exacerbating chronic back pain. The recent incidents on Bogadi Main Road, where three motorists lost their lives due to unscientific road humps, have heightened my awareness and caution when encountering such obstacles.

Today, while navigating the road leading to the MCC Commissioner's residence in Yadavagiri, I encountered a rubber speed hump installed on the roadway. This particular hump consists of segmented rubber components, with one segment missing at its centre.

Consequently, the bolts and nuts used to secure these segments to the road surface are now exposed, with one bolt visibly bent from the weight of passing heavy vehicles and the remaining bolts dangerously protruding. Over time, the constant traffic passing over these exposed iron bolts could potentially be hazardous to both vehicles and pedestrians. With vehicles passing over the rubber speed humps regularly, the remaining speed hump segments will also come off exposing the iron bolts and nuts.

Considering the prominent location of the MCC Commissioner's residence along this road, it's perplexing how the responsible authorities overlooked the danger posed by these exposed bolts till now. It's conceivable that many MCC officials, including those tasked with maintaining road safety, have traversed on this route without noticing the hazard.

I urge the authorities to promptly address this issue by either repairing the missing segment of the rubber speed bump or removing the exposed bolts altogether. Failure to take action could lead to preventable accidents and injuries.

—A concerned citizen
Mysuru
11.2.2024

STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Monday 12th February 2024

City's Thanya wins yet another gold medal in swimming

Mysuru, Feb. 12 (SPN&VNS)- City swimmer S. Thanya won the gold medal in the 400 mts (Individual Medley) with a timing of 5:12.96 seconds at the BIMSTEC Aquatic Championships 2024 held at S.P. Mukherjee Sports Stadium in New Delhi recently.

She has also won gold medals in 200 mts Breaststroke and 200 mts Individual Medley with a timing of 2:42.94 sec and 2:28.16 seconds respectively.

At 14, Thanya is said to be the first swimmer from Mysuru to have won three gold medals in an international event.

S. Thanya, a Grade 9 student at Sri Sharada Public School, is the daughter of S.P. Shadakshari and Shwetha, residents of J.P. Nagar, Mysuru.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

To magnetise money effectively, we need to be scrupulously truthful in our dealings. Truth has power. Truth is power, because it is the fabric from which the universe is created — Sat-chit-anand: truth, awareness and bliss. Being honest and transparent in our business dealings creates a strong magnetism that attracts success, prosperity and the money we need to fulfil our dharmic obligations. The most powerful and effective way to attract money is to share it. It may seem paradoxical, but the more we give of our money, the more the universe gives us in return. Swami Kriyananda writes: "Money, ultimately, brings happiness only if it is shared. When it is used generously to help others, one feels happy in himself and finds his happiness expanding to include others' well-being. When one helps others to achieve prosperity, he attracts greater prosperity to himself."

We can justifiably assume that the Source of all abundance will respond to our needs, but we should never presumptuously imagine that it will fulfil our every desire. When the Source of our being fulfils a need and we humbly and lovingly offer our gratitude in return, we return the blessing to its Source, whereupon it comes back to us again. This is the feedback dynamic that keeps Law of Magnetism in motion.

—Shivani Lucki in The Times of India

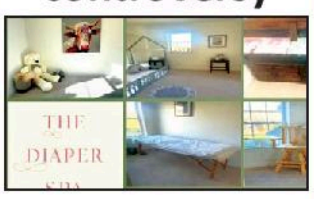
NEWS SPARKLERS

Surgeon goes viral for before-and-after videos

Shanghai: A social media plastic surgeon known as 'Dr. Kim' has gone viral for his uncanny before-and-after videos showcasing the radical transformation of his patients who are sometimes left looking unnatural.

Dr. Kim's page originally went viral last year, when people first noticed his weird before-and-after clips, but one of his videos recently attracted even more attention, making headlines all over the world and sparking a heated debate online. While many users of the popular video-sharing platform are convinced that Dr. Kim is either one of the world's worst plastic surgeons or that his account is some kind of joke, some believe that people's perception is skewed by the short period of time between the before and after shots. Patients' faces are not completely healed and they often still have bruises or are visibly swollen, but that's how Dr. Kim chooses to share their transformation.

Diaper spa sparks controversy



Atkinson: Diaper-wearing adults looking for a safe space to role-play as babies can now head to the new Diaper Spa in Atkinson, New Hampshire, that caters to the needs of all diaper lovers.

Set up by physician Dr. Colleen Murphy, the Diaper Spa seeks to serve all diaper-wearing individuals above the age of 21 looking for acceptance and care, or simply for a safe space to engage in 'richly immersive experiences' that involve adult diapers. Activities listed on the venue's website include playtime, story time, nap time, cuddle time, changing time, colouring, nursery rhymes, and sing-a-longs. Prices start at 100 dollars per hour and go all the way up to 1,500 dollars for a 24-hour stay. The recently opened Diaper Spa has sparked controversy in Atkinson because of its unusual services, but Dr. Murphy claims that her brainchild is not about weird fetishes, but about dealing with trauma.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Symptoms of Gastrointestinal cancers can vary depending on the specific location of cancer, but may include unexplained weight loss, abdominal pain or discomfort, changes in bowel habits, blood in stool,difficulty in swallowing, jaundice and persistant indigestion/bloating.

By Dr. Vasudeva Pai H. - Consultant - Surgical Gastroenterology
Manipal Hospital, Mysore

manipalhospitals
LIFE'S ON

** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature*

Applications invited for setting up KarnatakaOne and GramaOne Centres

Mysuru, Feb. 12- The District Administration has invited online applications from interested persons for opening KarnatakaOne and GramaOne Franchisee Centres at different places in the district.

The applications are invited for setting up 11 centres in Mysuru city limits, 1 each in Hootagalli CMC, Nanjangud TMC, Periyapatna TMC, Bachegowdanahalli in H.D. Kote taluk, Singaramaranahalli in Hunsur taluk, Hoskote and Gandhanahalli in K.R. Nagar taluk, Gopalapura, Harohalli, Mellahalli in Mysuru taluk, Maralur, Heggadahalli, Haralawadi and Biligere in Nanjangud taluk and Manuganahalli in Saragur taluk; 2 each in Bannur TMC, T. Narasipur TMC and Kasuvinahalli in Nanjangud taluk and 3 in K.R. Nagar TMC limits.

Interested persons can apply for KarnatakaOne centres through the website: ***https://www.karnatakaone.gov.in/Public/FranchiseeTerms*** and for GramaOne Centres through website: ***https://kal-mys.gramaone.karnataka.gov.in***

Last date to apply is Feb. 15, according to a press release.

WATER LEVEL

KRS DAM	KABINI DAM	HARANGI DAM
Maximum **124.80 feet**	Maximum **2,284.00 feet**	Maximum **2,859.00 feet**
Today's level **91.32 feet**	Today's level **2,271.50 feet**	Today's level **2,831.43 feet**
Last year's level **112.30 feet**	Last year's level **2,270.74 feet**	Last year's level **2,828.90 feet**
Yesterday's level **91.42 feet**	Yesterday's level **2,271.58 feet**	Yesterday's level **2,831.46 feet**
Today's Inflow **486 cusecs**	Today's Inflow **102 cusecs**	Today's Inflow **207 cusecs**
Today's Outflow **1,120 cusecs**	Today's Outflow **500 cusecs**	Today's Outflow **200 cusecs**

REALLY...?

- *Swallow a single drop of ocean water and you'll swallow thousands of microscopic algae. There are more algae in the oceans than stars in the Universe.*
- *Your ears never stop growing!*
- *Earwax is actually a type of sweat! .*
- *The tongue is covered in about 8,000 taste-buds, each containing up to 100 cells helping you taste your food!*

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Teacher: *Children, those who teach are called "Teachers", right? Give me another example.*
Student: *Those who slip are called "Slippers".*

TODAY'S CURRENCY RATE

1 US Dollar	= **Rs. 82.99**
1 UK Pound	= **Rs. 104.79**
1 UAE Dirham	= **Rs. 22.59**
1 Euro	= **Rs. 89.53**

VOICE OF THE READER

Expedite inauguration of Ashokapuram Railway Station

Sir,

Of late, the Mysuru City Railway Station has been grappling with challenges in managing the arrival and departure of trains to various destinations. Our MP Pratap Simmha has taken proactive steps to address the situation. He has successfully obtained clearance from the Railway Minister and Railway Board for the expansion of City Station, and the work has begun.

Additionally, the MP has directed officials to expedite the inauguration of Ashokapuram Railway Station. However, it is unfortunate that SWR officials at the headquarters in Hubballi have turned a deaf ear and a blind eye to this matter.

The SWR General Managers (GMs) in Hubballi seem to have primarily focused on Hubballi side and shown little interest in improving matters in Mysuru.

Also, there has been a persistent push to permanently close down Mysuru-Chamarajanagar Section by successive GMs, despite the evident need for connectivity in the region. For instance, while Vishwamanava Express was introduced to alleviate burden on passengers travelling in Chamundi Express, operational inefficiencies have undermined its purpose. The concerns of commuters, despite numerous suggestions, have been disregarded by officials from Bengaluru and Hubballi.

The inauguration of expanded Ashokapuram Railway Station, developed to address growing needs of the region, has been inexplicably delayed. This neglectful attitude threatens to hinder the progress of Mysuru.

The General Manager of the South Western Railway must take immediate action to inaugurate the expanded Station and alleviate the transportation challenges faced by the people of Mysuru, particularly those commuting from the southern parts of the city.

We urge MP Pratap Simmha to engage with the concerned Ministry to expedite the clearance for the inauguration of the Ashokapuram Railway Station.

— B. Shekar

Mysuru
7.2.2024

Konkani writer Vally Vagga feted at 'Kathasandhi' event

Mysuru, Feb. 12- Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in collaboration with the Konkani Christian Association (KCA), Mysuru, had organised 'Kathasandhi' event with Konkani writer Vally Vagga (Valerian D'Souza) on Sunday at the Konkan Bhavan in Vijayanagar 2nd Stage here.

The programme began with Rev. Fr. Rovel D'Souza, Director, Dhyana Sadhana, conducting the Konkani Mass at 8.30 am followed by a public function at 10 am, which was jointly inaugurated by the dignitaries — Melvin Rodrigues, Member of the Executive Council, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, Vally Vagga, eminent story writer and poet, John William D'Souza, President of KCA, Joyce Sequeira, General Secretary and Anil Saldanha, Treasurer.

Speaking on the occasion, Melvin Rodrigues gave a brief history of the Sahitya Akademi and lauded the KCA for organising such an event. He also commended Vally Vagga in enriching the Konkani culture through his writing.

During the event, Vally Vagga presented one of his best stories to the audience and the course of his life as a writer and poet. He said that as he was a voracious reader, it was very easy for him to write short stories and poems.

On the occasion, KCA honoured Vally Vagga with Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding contribution to the society. A recipient of many prestigious awards like Karnataka Rajyotsava Award and Daiji World Award, Vagga has served KCA as Joint Secretary for two years and President for 6 years. He is also the Founder-Director of 'Konkan Pathina Sahakara Sangha', Mysuru.

Later, a cultural programme was presented by the specially-abled children from Mercy Convent, Srirampura and Sairanga Vidya Samsthe, Bannimantap, which enthralled the gathering with graceful dances, pyramid formations and mime show. As a social gesture, a cheque for Rs. 50,000 each was presented to the Institutions for the betterment of the students. This was followed by melodious Konkani songs by the Committee members.

John William D'Souza gave the introductory speech. Joyce Sequeira welcomed the gathering. Meena Dais, Vice-President, proposed the vote of thanks. Vincent D'Souza compered. H.M. Pernal, Shrividya Kamath, Stany Bella, Members of the Konkani Sahitya Advisory Board and Alphonse D'Souza, Konkani writer were present.

Rs. 2.04 crore hundi collection at Nanjangud temple

Nanjangud, Feb. 12- The famed Srikanteshwaraswamy temple at Nanjangud has recorded a hundi collection of Rs.2.04 crore, in the latest counting.

The counting of 35 hundis collection in the temple was taken up at the temple's Dasoha Bhavan on Friday, during which Rs. 2,04,98,214 in cash, 82.2 grams of gold jewellery, 4.3 kgs of silver jewellery and articles and 24 foreign currencies were found.

The hundi collection counting was held under the supervision of Muzrai Tahsildar Vidyalatha, Temple EO Jagadish Kumar, Assistant EO Satish, Accountant Gurumallaiah, Bank of Baroda Nanjangud Branch Manager Sangadev and other officials.

CRPF recruitment exam to be conducted in 13 regional languages including Kannada

New Delhi, Feb.12- For the first time, the written exam for recruitment of Constables in Paramilitary forces such as CRPF, BSF, CISF etc., will be held in 13 regional languages including Kannada in addition to Hindi and English. The exam will be held from Feb.20 to Mar.7, according to an announcement by the Union Home Ministry.

The Ministry further said that about 48 lakh aspirants will be writing the exams in 128 cities and towns across the country. It may be mentioned here that the Union Home Ministry had declared in April last year that such recruitment exams will also be held in regional languages.

Robo-Rikishi contest held at NIE

Students involved in Robo Soccer competition.

Mysuru, Feb. 12- The Department of Mechanical Engineering, National Institute of Engineering (NIE), Mysuru, conducted a three-day Mech Fest "Yaantrika-2023" recently.

As part of the event, the 6th National-level Robo Wrestling competition "Robo-Rikishi-2023," organised by the Department and Robotics Club, was inaugurated at NIE Diamond Jubilee complex by Anil Kumar Nadiger, Director, RachanaEnercare.

Addressing the gathering, he explained how robotics is playing a crucial role in hazardous environment and in fatigue areas. He also expressed his view on how students can sharpen their competitive spirit and product designing skills through participating in technical events.

There were three competitions — RoboRace, Line follower and RoboSoccer — for which there were over 130 participants from various institutions across the State. Students from MITE Mudbidre, JNNCE Shivamogga, GSSSIT Mysuru, SIT Tumkur, VVCE Mysuru participated.

Dr. K.R. Prakash Professor and Head, Department of Mechanical Engineering, highlighted the various steps taken by the Department towards improving research culture among students. He also insisted on developing skillsets towards Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning as it is the need of the hour.

Besides there was Technical Exhibition in which NIE students from various branches of Engineering displayed their innovative project prototypes.

Event Co-ordinators Dr. K.R. Prakash and N.S. Srikanth, Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, explained the importance of such interdisciplinary exhibition.

The team from NIE got first place in Line follower competition while the team from SIT Tumkur stood first in Robo Race competition and the team from MITE stood first in Robo Soccer.

NEWS BRIEFS

Free mass 'Akshara Abhyasa'

City-based KMPK Trust has organised free mass 'Akshara Abhyasa' at Maharshi Public School in Vishewesharanagar on Feb. 14. Melukote Sri Yadugiri Yathiraja Mutt Seer Sri Yadugiri Yathiraja Narayana Ramanuja Jeeyar Swamiji released a poster about the 'Akshara Abhyasa' and 'Saraswathi Puja' to be held on the occasion, at a function held at Sri Lakshmi Narasimhaswamy Temple on Kalidasa Road in the city yesterday. Later, Trust President Vikram Iyengar, while giving details about the function, said that the free 'Akshara Abhyasa' is open to all castes and communities and the 'Saraswathi Puja' will be held on Feb. 14 from 8 am to 10.30 am at the School premises. Parents, who are desirous of participating in free 'Akshara Abhyasa' can register their names by calling Mob: 98807-52727 and 78290-67769, before Feb. 13. Slate and chalk pieces will be provided by the Trust.

Karatekas excel at Intl. Championship

The following karatekas of PKD (Prajwal Karate Dojo) excelled in the Republic Day Cup - 2024 International Karate and Kubudo Championship held at National Public School, Bengaluru, in January: Angad - Bronze in Kata and Kumite; Manyasri Sarvani - Gold in Kumite & Silver in Kata; Naithra - Gold in Kata & Silver in Kumite; Malavika - Gold in Kumite & Silver in Kata; Ishaan - Gold in Kumite & Bronze in Kata; Anvesha - Gold in Kumite & Silver in Kata; Kashvi - Gold in Kumite & Kata; Kanishka - Gold in Kata & Kumite; Manya Vedi - Gold in Kata & Kumite. All the karatekas are trained under Coach Sensei S. Prajwal.

Ph.D awardees

S. Praveen Kumar has been awarded Ph.D in Commerce by the University of Mysore (UoM) for his thesis 'Lean Manufacturing System in MSME's in Karnataka' submitted under the guidance of Dr. B. Nagaraju.

Abdullah Yahya Mohammed Muaad has been awarded Ph.D in Computer Science by the University of Mysore (UoM) for his thesis 'Representation and Classification of Arabic Text' submitted under the guidance of Dr. J. Hanumanthappa.

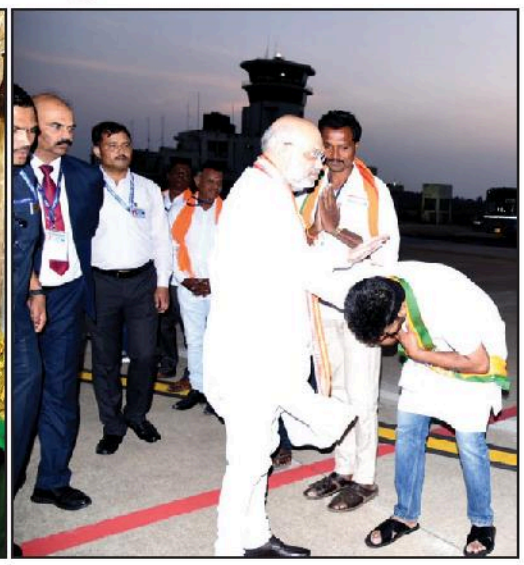
Amit Shah concludes his busy 16-hour visit to Mysuru

Mysuru, Feb. 12 (SBD&BCT)- Union Home Minister Amit Shah wrapped up his busy 16-hour visit to Mysuru, where he connected with prominent Lingayat and Hindu communities.

He participated in the Suttur Jathra Mahotsava and engaged with community leaders and spiritual figures. He also visited Sri Chamundeshwari Temple atop Chamundi Hill, where he offered special prayers.

During the high-profile visit of Shah, public access to the Temple was restricted starting from 1.55 pm until Shah left the premises. Additionally, vehicle movement to and from the Temple was also prohibited during this time.

The VVIP arrived at the Mysore Airport yesterday at 2.40 am and after completing his engagements in Mysuru, left the city for Ahmedabad in an IAF aircraft at 6.40 pm. After participating in the Suttur Jathra, Amit Shah's convoy drove to Chamundi Temple at 2.35 pm and was accorded a 'Poornakummbha' welcome.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who visited Chamundi Hill Temple yesterday, being offered the traditional 'phala thamboola' by Temple Chief Priest Shashishekar Dikshit as BJP State President B.Y. Vijayendra and others look on. Picture right shows Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simmha seeking the blessings of Shah at Mysore Airport in Mandakalli before the Union Minister left the city for Ahmedabad in an IAF aircraft last evening as others look on.

Chief Priest Shashishekar Dikshit led Amit Shah to the *sanctum sanctorum* where he performed special pujas to the deity. The Union Home Minister was given the traditional 'phala thamboola'.

He spent over 15 minutes inside the temple complex and waved at the crowd gathered outside as his cavalcade left.

Before Amit Shah arrived at the Chamundi Temple, his wife Sonal Shah offered prayers to the deity at 12.30 pm. Following the Sankalpa and Archane rituals, Sonal Shah accepted the Prasadam.

Afterwards, she visited the Shuka Vana at Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Ashram on Nanjangud Road. Impressed by the exotic collection of birds, Sonal Shah fed them and had herself photographed with them.

Union Home Minister asks BJP State unit to increase vote share by 10 percent

'Prime Minister Modi's popularity a winning formula; do not repeat mistakes that led to downfall of Congress-JD(S) coalition'

Mysuru, Feb. 12 (SBD&BCT)- Union Home Minister Amit Shah underscored the imperative for the Karnataka unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to harness Prime Minister Narendra Modi's widespread popularity and convert it into an augmented vote share.

He asked the party workers in Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's hometown to secure victory in all 28 Lok Sabha seats in the forthcoming elections. During a strategic session convened at the Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel yesterday, Shah delineated the favourable political landscape nationwide, emphasising the conducive environment for the BJP.

Key members of the BJP's core committee alongside cluster leaders representing the Mysuru-Kodagu, Mandya, Hassan and Chamarajanagar Lok Sabha Constituencies attended the strategy session.

Shah also issued a stern warning to members against making any loose statements regarding the alliance between the BJP and the JD(S). "It is important to maintain unity and refrain from airing opinions," Shah said, aimed at curtailing discord within the party ranks. He underscored the significance of a cohesive approach towards alliance matters.

Additionally, Shah cautioned leaders and party workers against repeating past errors that contributed to the downfall of the Congress-JD(S) coalition.

He proposed a streamlined approach where each of the eight Assembly segments within every Parliamentary Constituency commits to maximising efforts to bolster the party's electoral prospects.

Following the meeting, BJP State President B.Y. Vijayendra told reporters that strategies were devised to secure a 10 percent increase in votes at every booth across the State as instructed by the Union Home Minister.

"All our leaders have pledged to Amit Shah that the BJP and the JD(S) will jointly contest all 28 Lok Sabha Constituencies and we are fully committed to winning all 28 seats," Vijayendra stated.

Regarding seat allocation discussions, Vijayendra clarified that these deliberations will occur in Delhi between senior leaders of both parties. However, he emphasised the shared goal of ensuring victory for whichever candidate is selected.

Shah highlighted 45 Assembly seats spanning five districts and urged MLAs to intensify public outreach efforts immediately.

Sources indicated that his comprehensive briefing provided State BJP leaders with a clear understanding of the forthcoming challenges and the urgency for preparations ahead of the 2024 elections.

Central funds: BJP to counter Congress with factual details

Mysuru, Feb. 12 (SBD&BCT)- The State BJP's core committee meeting, presided over by Home Minister Amit Shah, resolved to combat the Congress' campaign against the Narendra Modi Government by providing comprehensive information on the allocation of Central funds to Karnataka.

Senior BJP leader and former National General Secretary, C.T. Ravi, stated that the meeting aimed to effectively counter Chief Minister Siddaramaiah-led Congress Government's accusations of 'injustice' by the Centre. They plan to disseminate accurate facts to the public.

"We will refute the Congress Government's unfounded allegations by presenting detailed information on the funds allocated during PM Modi's tenure. This includes funds for railway projects, road construction and other welfare programmes," Ravi said.

C.T. Ravi

He highlighted that Karnataka received a total of Rs. 1.42 lakh crore from the Centre during the Manmohan Singh Government's ten-year tenure. However, under PM Modi's leadership, the State received Rs. 4.91 lakh crore. Despite this substantial increase, Ravi criticised the Congress Government's attempt to sow discord among the populace.

"Siddaramaiah's narrative of 'injustice' is an attempt to divert attention from his Government's failures and an empty treasury. He is employing divisive tactics, fuelling 'regional chauvinism' to undermine national unity," he added.

Curtains fall on six-day Suttur Jathra Mahotsava

Priests seen performing Kapilaarathi on the banks of River Kapila during the recently held Suttur Jathra Mahotsava. Picture right shows Thepotsava at Kapila. [Pics. by Vatal Anand]

Lakhs of devotees, multitude of dignitaries, actors, industrialists, spiritual leaders take part

Mysuru, Feb. 12 (MTY&VNS)- The six-day Suttur Jathra Mahotsava concluded yesterday with the unveiling of Smt. Parvathamma and Sri Shamanur Shivashankarappa Guest House at Suttur by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Theppotsava and Annabrahmotsava.

Under the guidance of Suttur Seer Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji, the Jathra saw a multitude of dignitaries, including Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar, former CM B.S. Yediyurappa, Central and State Ministers, industrialists, renowned scholars, artists and lakhs of devotees participating in the festivities.

As part of the celebrations, 30th State-Level Bhajan and Ekatari Competition was organised, with over 750 teams comprising male, female and child contestants. Various events such as Sri Veerabhadra Kondotsava, mass marriage, Haalaravi Utsava, Rathotsava, Sri Mahadeshwara Kondotsava and Lakshadeepotsava took place on consecutive days.

Enthusiastic participation

The Jathra also featured a diverse array of spiritual, cultural, educational and sports activities, including rangoli and sobane pada competitions, exhibitions showcasing handlooms, textiles, handicrafts and household products crafted by Self Help Groups, Sthree Shakti Sangha and cottage industries. Additionally, students from JSS High Schools presented educational and scientific models.

Krishi Mela, themed 'Hani Hanigu Bharapoora Thene' (maximum yield for every drop of water), showcased numerous indigenous & exotic vegetables, monocotyledons & dicotyledons, oil seeds, over 300 crop varieties cultivated using drip and sprinkler irrigation, commercial crops, fodder crops, agricultural equipment, as well as indigenous breeds of cows, sheep, goats and fowls. The festival also featured a painting and kite festival for children, along with Chitrasanthe, drawing significant interest from visitors.

The national-level wrestling competition held on Feb. 9 attracted wrestlers from across the country. The winner was bestowed with the title 'Suttur Kesari,' while the best local wrestler earned the title 'Suttur Kumara.'

A host of awareness programmes

Throughout the Jathra, the Mutt organised health camps, offering screenings for common health issues and raising awareness about various types of cancers. In addition, various traditional games such as slush race, tug of war, kuntebille, alagulimane, anekallu, chess, top, chowkabaara and other games saw enthusiastic participation.

At the 52nd cattle fair, different breeds of cattle were exhibited, with the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences providing health check-ups, free vaccinations and medications for the cattle.

Around 3,500 students from JSS institutions presented cultural events including Bharatanatyam, group dance, classical music, dance based on vachanas, and group songs, enhancing the vibrancy of the Jathra. Amateur theatre groups staged plays, music concerts and dance performances at the main temple premises, while rural theatre groups presented mythological plays.

A grand Kapilarathi

A special aarathi to the River Kapila, called Kapilaarathi, was held during the Thepotsava on Feb. 10. The 'Prabhath Peri' procession, promoting friendship, peace and harmony, traversed the surrounding villages of Suttur throughout the six-day event.

Suttur Mutt provided boarding and lodging facilities for devotees. A variety of delicacies, including jaggery rice, upma, Kesari bath, khara bath, sweet pongal, khara pongal, lemon rice, kheer, sweet boondi, khara boondi, sambar, rice, buttermilk, wheat kheer, Mysore Pak and besibele bath were prepared using over 1,000 quintals of rice, 180 quintals of tur dal, 1,500 litres of refined oil, 12 tonnes of jaggery, 4,000 kgs of chilli powder, 250 quintals of sugar, 500 kgs of Nandini ghee, 800 kgs of raisins and cashew nuts, 8,000 litres of milk, 28,000 litres of curd and 25,000 coconuts.

Special bus services provided by KSRTC and private transport companies facilitated devotees' visits to Suttur from various district and taluk headquarters.

Sonal Shah visits Palace, Shuka Vana

Union Home Minister Amit Shah's wife Sonal Shah, who visited Mysore Palace in city yesterday, being felicitated by Mysore Palace Board Dy. Director T.S. Subramanya with a portrait of the golden throne. Picture right shows Sonal Shah at Shuka Vana in Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Ashram premises on Nanjangud Road in Mysuru.

Pancha Garudotsava enriches Mysuru's religious traditions

Mysuru, Feb. 12 (MK&BS)- The inaugural Pancha Garudotsava unfolded with reverence and devotion at Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple on Kalidasa Road last Friday.

Sri Yadugiri Yathiraja Narayana Ramanuja Jeeyar from Sri Yadugiri Yathiraja Mutt, Melukote, presided over the inaugural ceremony of this unique religious event, organised by the Pancha Garudotsava Samithi of Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple, commencing with a special puja to the deity.

The procession of the deity traversed through revered landmarks including Sri Andal Mandira, Sri Chandramouleshwara Swamy Temple, and Paduvarahalli Sri Vidya Ganapathi Temple. At each stop, Mangla Dravyas (sacred puja items in liquid form) were offered before the deity resumed its journey to its swasthana (original place) at the Temple.

During his address, Sri Yadugiri Yathiraja Narayana Ramanuja Jeeyar expressed his hope for the spiritual upliftment of the nation, invoking blessings upon the devotees gathered for the auspicious occasion of Pancha Garudotsava.

Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, the titular head of the erstwhile royal family of Mysore, underscored the deep-rooted connection between the Mysore Palace and Sri Vaishnava tradition, highlighting the historical reverence of Melukote among Mysore kings. He underlined the enduring significance of Melukote Cheluvanarayanaswamy Temple within the Palace tradition.

Reflecting on Mysuru's historical role as a precursor to Karnataka State, Yaduveer praised the region for its steadfast commitment to upholding *Sanatana Dharma* and Indian traditions. MLA and President of the Pancha Garudotsava Samiti, T.S. Srivatsa, hailed Mysuru's rich royal heritage and announced plans to expand the Pancha Garudotsava into a grand annual event with the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders.

Sri Ilai Alwar Swamiji of Vangipura Nambi Mutt, Melukote, Karagam Narayana Iyengar, and former Corporators Bhagya Mahadesh and Pramila Bharath were present on the occasion.

State Budget Session begins

(Continued from page 1)

Underlining the Government's commitment to the ideals of 'Sarva Janangada Shanthiya Thota,' as envisioned by Rashtrakavi Kuvempu, and the comprehensive development of the State, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot underscored the Government's focus on good governance, transparent systems, and citizen-centric approaches.

He also highlighted the Government's dedication to promoting ease of governance alongside ease of doing business, prioritising efficient and accessible administrative processes.

Central funds not granted

In reference to the drought situation, the Governor remarked, "The State Government has submitted memorandums related to Kharif Drought Relief to the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, seeking financial assistance of Rs. 18,171.44 crore under NDRF for drought relief measures in affected taluks. However, as of now, no amount has been released. Nonetheless, the State Government is diligently pursuing all necessary efforts to expedite the release of drought relief funds, aiming to alleviate the suffering of our people."

Furthermore, the Governor highlighted that in response to the drought situation, the State Government has disbursed input subsidies totalling Rs. 617 crore to 32.50 lakh drought-affected farmers as the first instalment of crop damage compensation, up to Rs. 2,000 per eligible farmer.

Acknowledging the cooperation of people's representatives in elevating State Government projects to the national level and fostering public engagement, the Governor concluded his address by stating, "Let us all collaborate in resolving the issues faced by the common man. Together, let us strive to make Karnataka a prosperous State and a haven of peace for all communities."

Opposition dissatisfied

Of special note was the participation of opposition BJP members on opening day of Budget session, donning saffron shawls.

In reaction to the Governor's address, members of the Opposition BJP and JD(S) expressed their discontent, highlighting that the speech predominantly emphasised the Siddaramaiah Government's guarantees while neglecting crucial topics like drought relief measures.

They accused the Government of coercing the Governor into promoting falsehoods and exaggerating nonexistent schemes. Opposition leader R. Ashoka strongly criticised the Governor's speech, labelling it a collection of lies and asserting that it misled the people of Karnataka. Both Houses adjourned for the day, after paying homage to former members of the State Legislature and other dignitaries who recently passed away.

Budget on Feb. 16

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who also serves as the Finance Minister, is scheduled to present the State Budget for the fiscal year 2024-25 on Feb. 16. This marks the CM's 15th Budget presentation, a record in the State's history. The upcoming Budget holds significant importance with the looming LS polls.

Journalist Sagarika Ghose is TMC Rajya Sabha candidate

Sagarika Ghose

Kolkata, Feb. 12 (Agencies)- Journalist Sagarika Ghose is among the four Rajya Sabha candidates announced by the Trinamool Congress (TMC) yesterday for the upcoming elections to the Rajya Sabha.

The other three candidates are Sushmita Dev, former President of the Congress Women's Wing and former Lok Sabha member who joined West Bengal's ruling party in August 2021; Dalit Matua community leader and former Lok Sabha member Mamata Bala Thakur and sitting Rajya Sabha member Nadimul Haque.

In contrast, the Bharatiya Janata Party has nominated the party's Bengal chief spokesperson, Samik Bhattacharya, for the fifth Rajya Sabha seat from the State.

Ghose, known for her biographies of former Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Atal Bihari Vajpayee, was personally selected by the top leadership of the party, according to senior TMC functionaries.

Of the 16 Rajya Sabha seats from West Bengal, the TMC currently holds 14. Elections for 56 Rajya Sabha seats spread across 15 States are scheduled for Feb. 27.

'CM must announce Vishwakarma Study Centre in Budget'

Mysuru, Feb.12- Mysore Vishwakarma Association has urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to announce the setting up of Vishwakarma Study Centre in the forthcoming State Budget.

Speaking at a press conference held at Pathrakartara Bhavan in the city recently, Association's Mantelingachar said there are very few studies about the culture of Vishwakarma community at the University level and hence there is a need to carry out studies at the higher level. University of Mysore is the appropriate place as there are more facilities here.

So, if the Study Centre is set up here, it will help community members from across Karnataka to participate, he added.

Community Health Officers to launch indefinite stir at Bengaluru

Mysuru, Feb.12- Contract Community Health Officers, under the banner of Akhila Karnataka State Community Health Employees Association, will launch an indefinite stir at Freedom Park in Bengaluru from Feb.15, seeking fulfilment of their 11-point charter of demands.

The demands include regularisation of service of all Community Health Officers who have completed 6 years of service as per CPHC-UHC guidelines, a 15 percent hike in wages, release of 5 percent withheld annual wages and 10 percent loyalty bonus, Health Insurance and PF coverage to all family members of Community Health Officers and introduction of inter-district transfers, among others.

For more details, call Mob: 95384-24144, according to a press release.

VTU State-level Throwball Championship 2023-24

Mysuru, Feb. 12- Department of Physical Education and Sports of GSSS Institute of Engineering and Technology for Women (GSSSIETW), Mysuru, is hosting VTU State-level Throwball Championship 2023-24, on Feb. 16 and 17.

The Tournament will be inaugurated on Feb. 16 at 9.30 am at M. Govinda Rao Memorial Hall, GSSSIETW, Mysuru.

Dr. C. Venkatesh, Chairman and Director, Department of Studies in Physical Education and Sports Sciences, University of Mysore (UoM), will be the chief guest. Vanaja B. Pandit, Hon. Secretary, GSSS, Mysuru, will preside. R.K. Bharath, Board Member and CEO, GSSS, Anupama B. Pandit, Board Member and Administrative Officer, GSSS, Dr. M. Shivakumar, Principal, GSSSIETW, M. Muralidhar, Regional Director, VTU, Mysuru Region, Physical Education & Sports Department Officials of the VTU, Belagavi and B.N. Harish Gowda, PE Director, Department of Physical Education and Sports, GSSSIETW, will be present.

A total of 16 throwball teams from various VTU affiliated engineering colleges will be participating in the championship .

Hale Unduwadi project to be completed in one year

KUWS&DB Chairman Vinay Kulkarni inspects work; First phase to supply 150 MLD Cauvery drinking water

Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board (KUWS&DB) Chairman Vinay Kulkarni (extreme left) seen interacting with officials concerned during an inspection of Hale Unduwadi drinking water project site in Mysuru on Saturday.

Mysuru, Feb. 12 (BCT)- The ambitious Hale Unduwadi Drinking Water Project, initiated in June 2021, is currently underway with the aim of providing drinking water to Mysuru City and 92 surrounding villages. It is anticipated that the physical infrastructure for this project will be completed within a year.

Upon completion, the entire project, being taken up in phases, will facilitate the supply of Cauvery water from the Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) Dam to Mysuru City, as well as to 139 villages in the Chamundeshwari Assembly Constituency and 277 villages in the Hunsur Assembly segment.

Chairman of the Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board (KUWS&DB) Vinay Kulkarni conducted an inspection of the project site on Saturday.

During this visit, officials briefed him that the works tendered were nearing completion, with the exception of the tender for providing a 66KV express power line, which had been invited. An official note issued yesterday stated, "It was conveyed that the project is slated for commissioning within a year, with water supply extending to beneficiaries within the limits of Mysuru City Corporation (MCC), Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, and Karnataka Housing Board (KHB)."

Project progress review

During Kulkarni's inspection, a thorough review of the progress made by the workforce involved in constructing water purification units and canal routes in and around Mysuru city, MUDA and the planning area of Mysuru district was conducted.

Detailed discussions were held with officials regarding the progress of the work and it was observed that a significant portion of the tasks had already been completed. Kulkarni was briefed that all aspects of the project are scheduled to be finalised within the coming year, ensuring the successful implementation and utilisation of the scheme.

Kulkarni also inspected the ongoing works on the Jackwell and pumphouse, stilling basin and draught canal at KRS Backwaters and assessed the progress of construction on the 150 million litres per day (MLD) Water Treatment Plant at Megalapura and the supply pipeline works.

150 MLD in the first phase

As part of the first phase, 150 MLD water collected from the Cauvery River stored at the KRS Dam will be pumped to a Treatment Plant at Beechanakuppe, situated approximately 4 km south of the Jackwell.

Subsequently, the treated water will be directed to a Master Balancing Reservoir (MBR) located at Vijayanagar in Mysuru city and then to the High Level Reservoir (HLR) at Yadavgiri, before being supplied to the western parts of the city and 92 other villages.

One significant advantage of the Hale Unduwadi project lies in its strategic location, enabling the extraction of water from the KRS Dam even when water levels drop below 70 feet and reach the dead storage level.

Elderly man hangs self after youth dies in bike collision

H.D. Thammaiah

Kushalnagar, Feb. 12 (Akshay&BCT)-A 57-year-old man took his own life after an accident resulted in the death of a 24-year-old youth. The elderly person, who is said to have taken the extreme step overwhelmed with grief, is identified as H.D. Thammaiah.

The incident occurred in Madikeri last Friday when the youth Dhanal Subbaiah's motorcycle collided head-on with H.D. Thammaiah's bike at Chain Gate premises.

While Dhanal Subbaiah, a resident of Kandanakolli near Haleri, was pursuing his Master's degree at Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa College in Madikeri, Thammaiah was a resident of Heravanadu near Madikeri.

Due to the impact of the accident, Dhanal Subbaiah sustained severe injuries and was transported to a hospital in Madikeri. Despite the medical efforts, he did not respond to treatment and succumbed to his injuries at 3 am yesterday.

According to family members and Police, Thammaiah was upset following the accident which concerned his family members. Thammaiah unfortunately took the extreme step of ending his own life just hours after the death of Dhanal.

The man hanged himself at his home. The circumstances surrounding the accident and the subsequent suicide are currently under Police investigation. While the Madikeri Town Police is handling the accident, Madikeri Rural Police Station is investigating the suicide case.

Tree crash

(Continued from page 1)

When the Forest staff and members of the MCC Abhaya team arrived to clear the fallen tree, a section of onlookers insisted on action against those responsible for igniting the fire, including arrest. However, another group reasoned with them about the urgent need to clear the obstruction to restore normalcy to public movement.

Ultimately, the fallen tree was promptly removed from the road, thanks to the efforts of the Abhaya-1 team, led by D. Manjunath and comprising Shreyas, Ravikumar and others. Their swift action ensured the smooth flow of traffic in the area.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public at large is hereby notified that my client is intending to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property for a valuable consideration from its owner Sri M.B.SRINIVAS S/o Late B.Bettaiah,. residing at 405, Contour Road, Gokulam 3rd Stage, V.V.Mohalla, Mysore. The Owner claim that, his right is free from all encumbrances, charges, claims etc., of whatsoever nature and that, he has a clear and marketable title in respect of the Schedule Property.

All or any persons including any Banks, Financial Institutions or any other party or person, having any valid and legal claim, right, title, demand or interest by virtue of any sale, gift, lease, tenancy, licence, exchange, partition, mortgage, charge, lein, inheritance, succession, trust, maintenance, possession, easement, power of attorney, agreement, lis-pendence, stay order, attachment, decree, specific performance or otherwise or any other right of whatsoever nature are required / called upon to convey their objection/s in writing at the below mentioned address during the working hours, with the documentary proof/s in original **within Fifteen (15) days** from issuance of this public notice. Failing which it will be presumed by my client that (a) there are no Power of Attorney holders, (b) there are no agreement holders, (c) there are no claim/s, lien/s, objection/s, mortgages, charges, etc., (d) if any, the same is / are deemed to have been waived and abandoned in respect of the Schedule Property and my client will be obliged to proceed with the execution and Registration of the Absolute Sale Deed as if there are no valid claim/s, lein/s, objection/s, mortgages, charge/s, etc., subsisting against the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.509/A, measuring East to West: 18.00 meter and North to South: 12.00 meter in total 216.00 Square Meters situated at 'A-1' Block, Vijayanagar 3rd Stage, Devaraja Mohalla, Mysore city bounded on the;

East by: Road, West by: Site No.549 & 550, North by: Site No.510, South by: Site No.509

Date : 11/02/2024
Place : Mysore

Mohana.C
Advocate
#1164, 1st Floor, NanjundeshwaraComplex,
Narayanashastri Road, Off D.Devaraje Urs Road,
Mysuru – 570 004. Mob: 9448448407

Printed by T.S. Gopinath and published by M. Govinde Gowda on behalf of Academy Newspapers Private Limited at Academy Newspapers Private Limited, 15-C, Industrial 'A' Layout, Bannimantap, Mysuru-570 015. Editor: M. Govinde Gowda. Phone: 2496520 / 2496521 / 2496522 / 2496523 / 2496526 / 2496527 / 2496528. City offices: Visveshwaraya Building, III Floor, K.R. CIRCLE, Mysuru-570 001, Phone : 2431774 and No. 114, D.Devaraj Urs Road, Mysuru-570 001, Phone : 2428695, E-mail address: voice@starofmysore.com, For Advertisements: ad@starofmysore.com, RNI Reg. No. 29894/78.

Celebrating cultural splendour through Nrithya Vaibhava

Mysuru, Feb. 12- Sri Nataraja Performing Arts Centre's Annual Dance Event, 'Nrithya Sambhrama,' inaugurated recently by G.R. Nagaraj set the stage for an evening steeped in cultural grandeur.

Vidu. Shrilakshmi Kumar, Director of Uma Maheshwara Nritya Kala Kendra, was the chief guest, along with President M.K. Balaraj.

Vidushi V. Suma compered the event, guiding audiences through a mesmerising display of dance forms. Each performance painted vibrant stories, blending tradition and innovation.

Applauding the dedication of the performers, Nagaraj emphasised the significance of preserving our heritage. The event celebrated artistry, affirming the Centre's pivotal role in fostering cultural brilliance in Mysuru.

The evening commenced with a soul-stirring Thodayam Mangalam and Shlokanjali, setting a reverential tone. The rendition of the Ganesh Stuti 'Gajavadana Beduve' filled the air with devotional fervour. DVG's masterpiece, 'Antahpurageete - Natanavaadidal Taruni,' enthralled the audience with its lyrical beauty. The senior students took the stage, eloquently portraying the captivating narrative of 'Choodamani,' complemented by the evocative composition of 'Hanumanta Deva Namo,' weaving a tale that left hearts touched and spirits moved.

The rhythmic journey continued with the lively folk song "Jakkanakka," infusing the atmosphere with energy. A thought-provoking Vachana enriched minds with profound wisdom. The event reached its magical peak with the captivating portrayal of Sri Krishna Leela, brought to life under the choreography guidance of Guru Vidu. M.B. Nagashree. It was like stepping into a vivid storybook, revealing the multifaceted life of Lord Krishna. From his playful childhood moments, sneaking bites of butter, to his brave youth standing up for what's right, each scene felt alive with the charm of human experiences.

The performances echoed the vibrant spirit of Vrindavan, capturing the fervent devotion of the Gopis and the irresistible charm of Krishna. Through his playful antics and profound teachings, the audience glimpsed not just a deity but a relatable figure filled with wisdom and grace.

As the curtains closed, the essence of Krishna's teachings lingered, leaving behind a sense of spiritual wonder and a rich cultural tapestry that touched every heart in attendance. The enchanting evening left hearts aglow, embracing the theme of 'Nrithya Vaibhava,' a testament to cultural richness and divine grace celebrated.

—H.P. Aditi

Sublime, melodious and shruti-aligned voice

Vocalist **Dhanya Dinesh** performed for Sri Nadabrahma Sangeetha Sabha in city recently. She was accompanied by Pruthvi Bhaskar on violin, Nandan Kashyap on mridanga and Shamit Gowda on ghata.

Dhanya Dinesh presenting a vocal concert at Sri Nadabrahma Sangeetha Sabha on JLB Road in city recently. She is accompanied by Pruthvi Bhaskar on violin, Nandan Kashyap on mridanga and Shamit Gowda on ghata.

Dhanya is the recipient of 'Nadakishori' award this year. Sri Nadabrahma Sangeetha Sabha, Mysuru, conducts an annual classical music contest in the month of August every year where young classical musicians in all categories from all over the State are invited to perform. The contestants are filtered to a count of ten by the Selection Committee and the selected participants perform before an invited audience with accompaniments. Three concerts are performed every day and four on the final day. The results are transparent and announced immediately after the competition. The winner is given the title 'Nadakishori/ Nadakishora' and a full-fledged concert in January every year. Dhanya won the award this year with a big margin. The best accompanists' award this year went to Prithvi Bhaskar and Nandan Kashyap, who accompanied Dhanya in the present concert.

Young Dhanya is blessed with a sublime, melodious and shruti-aligned voice that can traverse different octaves with utmost ease. Her uncanny ability to deliver complex swara patterns and pallavis and dwell in creativity effortlessly is an asset. Dhanya started the concert with the well-known varna in Bhairavi-Veeri Boni' by paccchaviriyam Adi Appayya. 'Ranganai tudiporku', a Tamil composition in Chakravakam by Papanashnam Shivan saw kalpanaswaras at a complex place. Mysore Vasudevachar's 'Bhajana seya raada' in Dharmavathi took a grand pause at 'niravadhi sukhadayaku nee' churning up a reposeful niraval. The niraval frequently brought memories of her Guru Naiveli Santanam in many phrases.

Bhairavi brought out more of Dhanya's skills. Prithvi essayed a beautiful response. Tanam was predictable but the pallavi had all the grandeur towing the laya pulse and exciting swara segments.

The lyrics of the pallavi were "Sangeeta and the laya gyanamau sakala saubhagyamu' by Dr. M. Balamurali Krishna set to Adi Talam. Dhanya not only presented this panchamukhi pallavi in other talams also with the same count, but developed kalpana swaras also in all the talams. The pallavi was also presented in Khanda Eka khanda nade, Chaturashra mathya Khanda nade, and Mishra jhampe khanda nade.

The way the young vocalist comfortably presented this complex pallavi with such ease without faltering anywhere was commendable. Nandan Kashyap and Shamit Gowda from Mysuru played an excellent taniyavartanam for this complex talam, which gained appreciation from the listeners. Dhanya concluded the concert with a Swati Tirunal Tillana in Dhanashri.

—Dr. Padmavathi Narasimhan

A timely book on caste system and politics-2

By R. Chandra Prakash

[Continued from Feb. 9]

Chandra Prakash

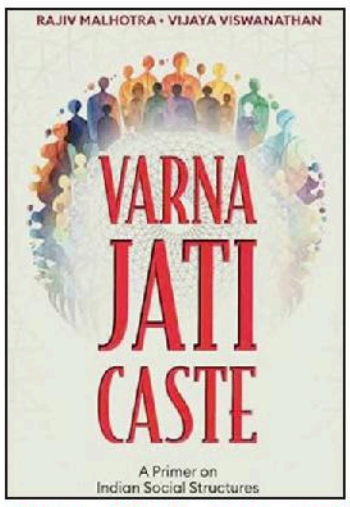
It is a fundamental truth when the authors emphasise that Hinduism is an open architecture offering a vast library of texts providing guidance and therefore there are multiple choices. Every Hindu can, and does, cherry-pick his personal choices of metaphysical interpretation, of guru for guidance (or no guru), of *ishta devata* (chosen deity), or rituals, of festivals, of pilgrim centres and of lifestyle. No other faith/religion provides such vast choices.

Authors are of the view that distortions have crept in over the period such as during Buddhism and the conversion process of Christianity and Islam. There are records in Hinduism substantiating the fact that a person's *varna* was not fixed permanently upon birth. Parents' *varna* or *jati* could shift to another if he was unable to follow his hereditary role or was attracted to another by inclination or talent. There are records that in Vedic times Shudras have occupied the position of kings and emperors. And Shudra kings regarded themselves as an integral part of Hindu society.

Shudras enjoyed high socio-economic status in ancient India as the Shudra artisans and craftsmen who formed a profession based guild system, were highly trained and possessed high educational standards. Such guild systems functioned till as late as the twelfth century. Subsequently due to 'Muslim invasion, guilds became immobile and ossified, resulting in their degeneration and subdivision.'

However, it is during and after the British colonial period much of distortions started to creep into the *Sanatana Dharma*. Quoting extensively from Dharmapal's book *The Beautiful Tree,* the authors prove that in Madras District (1825) the Shudras were the largest student group both in schools (66.9%) and at home (28.70%) in comparison with the Brahmins (7.42%) & (28.68%), and Vaisyas (15.12%) & (23.19%) respectively.

Interestingly, Hindus as a student group constituted 97.23% of total students in the school and 93.61% in home in



Every Hindu can, and does, cherry-pick his personal choices of metaphysical interpretation, of guru for guidance (or no guru), of ishta devata (chosen deity), or rituals, of festivals, of pilgrim centres and of lifestyle. No other faith/religion provides such vast choices.

comparison with the Muslims who constituted only 2.77% of School students group and 6.39% of Home group. The situation was said to be similar in other places all over the country at that time. The ramifications of such a steep religious divide in the educational efforts went deep into the struggle for independence and thereafter.

With such high participation in the school education Shudras earned respectable place in the contemporary society. Authors provide a diagrammatic picture of such comparatively higher socio-economic status of Shudras till such time to prove their point. It was only the simplistic interpretation of *varna/jati* system for the enumeration of census in 1832 that the term caste was injected to the Hindu society. **And this social engineering has played a havoc in otherwise harmonious and open structured social fabric society of the** *Sanatana Dharma.*

Untouchability - A British Social Engineering

The British extensively used untouchability as a Hindu religious curse when in reality it was during their rule **that it became a rampant practice mainly due to the British toilet habits.** The authors have diagrammatically displayed how untouchability became a different nomenclature category over a period — from the Fifth Varna, to Depressed Class, to Untouchables, to Harijans and finally to the Scheduled Castes. The authors summarise that "what was initially a theoretical structure, crystallised into substance at the ground level. This was incorrectly projected backwards to define the characteristic of ancient Vedic society." And the detailed historical analysis substantiates the conclusion arrived by the authors.

Dr. Ambedkar on Castes

Understanding India's caste politics is incomplete without knowing the contributions by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar to the subject. Dr. Ambedkar unequivocally "rejects the Western view that castes are separate races" and of the opinion that "to hold that distinctions of castes are really distinctions of race, and to treat different castes as though they were so many different races, is a gross perversion of facts." He later reiterates "The caste system does not demarcate racial division. The caste system is a social division of people of race."

Dr. Ambedkar not only disagreed with Gandhiji on Islam, but held "both Islam and Christianity dangerous options for Indians to adopt because he feared it would tear apart the fabric of Indian society." The authors quote extensively from his works to substantiate his views on Buddhism and Communism.

Relevance of Caste today

The authors feel that "The original dynamics of the system were disrupted and undermined by many social and political upheavals. **Over time,** *varna* **became** *jati,* **which then morphed into caste. The caste system is not mostly dead, but its ghost continue to haunt India."** With more than 36% of the country's population now living in urban localities, with enhanced infrastructural facilities reducing the rural-urban socio-economic chasm, caste is gradually becoming socially irrelevant. However, its diabolic importance in the political sphere is what makes it relevant today. However, faster economic development will automatically eliminate even that political abuse.

Timely Book

This book is part of a series of earlier publications by Rajiv Malhotra in association with other eminent writers on various burning issues of Hinduism. **Caste controversy is central to every onslaught on *Sanatana Dharma.*** Hence, the importance of the current book gets enhanced and its publication has become timely.

[Concluded]

State Cabinet clears Centre's Unity Mall Project in Mysuru

Bengaluru, Feb. 12 (KMS& BCT)- The Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday gave its nod to build the Unity Mall in Mysuru with the help of the Centre's interest-free loan of Rs. 193 crore under the 'One District, One Product' project.

The Mall, on the lines of Dilli Haat, will be built on 6.5 acres of land of Karnataka Exhibition Authority Grounds, also known as Dasara Exhibition Grounds and the works will be supervised by the Karnataka Commerce and Industries Department, State Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil told reporters.

"The Unity Mall is nothing but an exhibition centre. Though it is meant to encourage one product, naturally to attract more people, other products will also be there in that Mall," Patil said.

The Minister added that the cost of the project will be Rs. 193 crore.

The Unity Mall aims to be a vibrant showcase of the diverse range of handicrafts, art, sandalwood, rosewood inlay works, Geographical Indication (GI) tagged products and rich cultural heritage of the Mysuru region. The Mall will not just feature 'One District One Product' offerings but will also serve as an extensive platform for local and Karnataka's handicrafts. It will offer dedicated exhibition spaces for crafts, sandalwood products, and silk emporiums of Karnataka.

It will house 36 commercial spaces, one for each State/ Union Territory of the nation, to promote and sell at least one or more 'One District One Product.' Commercial spaces designated for other States will have uniform floor space, including one stall for each district of the host State, the Minister stated.

Office-bearers of MYSOGUS

Mysuru, Feb. 12- The Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of **MYSOGUS (Mysore Organisation of Genito Urinary Surgeons)** was held recently and the following were elected as office-bearers:

Dr. H.S. Prakash - President; Dr. Sachin Dharwadkar - Secretary; Dr. V. Manjunath - Treasurer; Dr. H.M. Surendra Mohan and Dr. A. Anvesh were elected as Executive Council Members.

At present, the Association has 32 Urologists as its members in Mysuru.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Prakash said that the Association is planning to conduct a live operative workshop on Paediatric Urology in the month of May as part of its annual activity which will be attended by delegates from all over the country.

Nirmaya Team wins Heritage Cup-2024

Mysuru, Feb. 12 (SPN&VNS)- City's Nirmaya team won the Heritage Cup-2024, a State-level cricket tournament for visually impaired women, jointly organised by Nirmaya Foundation, Swachhanda Group and Suraksha Foundation at Maharaja's College Cricket Grounds in city yesterday.

Nirmaya team defeated Deepa Academy of Bengaluru by a margin of five runs in the final match to emerge victorious. Shalini of Deepa Academy was adjudged the Player of the Match while Kavitha of Nirmaya was declared Player of the Tournament.

Speaking on the occasion, former Indian Blind Team player Shekar Naik said being visually impaired should not hinder the efforts to reach the set goals and advised the players to make use of the opportunities to build a good future. He also remembered the day when India won the world cup under his captaincy.

Dr. Chandrashekar of Aditya Hospital, Nirmaya Foundation Founder R. Rakshitha, President M.R. Gurpreeth, S.P. Prashanth of Swachhanda Group and Anand Raj of Suraksha Foundation were present at the valedictory.

WORD OF THE DAY

Absolve

Pronunciation: ub-ZAHLV (verb)
Meaning: To absolve someone is to free them from a responsibility or commitment, or from the consequences of guilt.
Origin: The act of absolving can be seen as releasing someone from blame or sin, or "loosening" the hold that responsibility or guilt has on a person, which provides a hint about the word's origins. Absolve was adopted into Middle English in the 15th century from the Latin verb absolvere ("to release, acquit, finish, complete"), formed by combining the prefix ab- ("from, away, off") with solvere, meaning "to loosen." Absolve also once had additional senses of "to finish or accomplish" and "to resolve or explain," but these are now obsolete. Solvere is also the ancestor of the English words solve, dissolve, resolve, solvent, and solution.
Example: "'We chose these Five Common Reactions to Change because they're very prevalent and they help illustrate a spectrum of change reactions from individuals,' Curtis [Bateman, author] says. 'It's important to highlight that no reaction is right or wrong at the start of the change. We're all human. But that doesn't absolve us of responsibility regarding the choices we make from that point forward.'" —Rodger Dean Duncan, Forbes, 5 Dec. 2023

THE ODD WORD

Gnaw

To consume bit by bit

PHRASE OF THE DAY

Salad Days

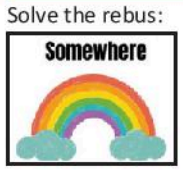
Meaning: The phrase "Salad Days" refers to a time when a person is at the peak of his abilities.
Origin: The phrase was coined by William Shakespeare in the tragedy 'Antony and Cleopatra' in 1606. In those days the meaning of the phrase was foolish and carelessness behaviour due to lack of experience. However, the modern use the meaning changed, and now the phrase describes a period when a person is at the peak of his abilities.
Example: Mark - "When I was young I went out every night, came back home at 4 in the morning, slept for 3 hours and went to work feeling awesome". Ron - "well those were your salad days. You're too old for that today,"

QUOTE BOX

If music be the food of love, play on. **—William Shakespeare**

RIDDLE THIS

Solve the rebus:



Answer: Somewhere Over the Rainbow

CROSS WORD

ACROSS:

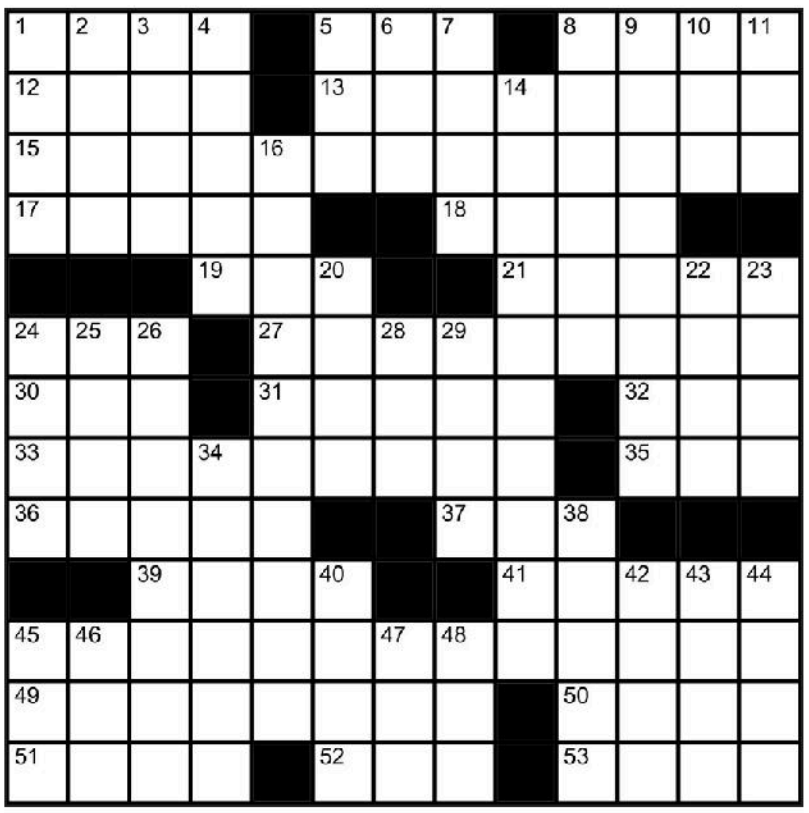
1 Work laboriously
5 One hundred forty nine in Roman numerals?
8 Airborne Flight Inf. Serv.
12 Swiss river - change of "area"?
13 Common man's drink - that's plain water! (5,3)
15 Lying
17 Extemporize (2-3)
18 River of Flanders
19 ___ Biao : Mao Zedong's famous general?
21 To discuss or debate
24 Wed successor
27 South Indian state (5,4)
30 Japanese bucks
31 One of hundredth of a rupee
32 Russian space station
33 Caught __ __ : caught in the act (3-6)
35 WWII zone
36 Fencing swords
37 Long time
39 Pro __
41 ___ out : puts into order?
45 Boosting
49 Spends frivolously
50 Oscar winner ___ Stone
51 Hyperbolic trigonometric function
52 Buddhist temple
53 Hard to fathom

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

A	R	C	A	■	Z	I	P	S	■	L	A	R
N	E	H	A	■	E	L	A	M	■	E	C	E
I	P	O	D	■	R	E	L	E	V	A	N	T
■	R	O	M	E	O	■	■	A	I	D	E	D
L	I	C	I	T	■	■	O	R	C	■	■	■
I	S	H	■	N	D	T	V	■	I	T	S	A
M	A	O	■	A	R	E	A	S	■	E	T	C
B	L	O	C	■	U	G	L	Y	■	S	R	O
■	■	■	L	O	G	■	■	N	A	T	A	L
R	A	G	E	S	■	■	P	E	T	T	Y	■
A	T	R	O	C	I	T	Y	■	O	U	C	H
V	O	A	■	A	V	E	R	■	M	B	A	S
I	P	S	■	R	E	N	E	■	S	E	T	T

DOWN

1 Dad
2 Fat of hogs after rendering
3 City on the Oka - "lore" anagram?
4 Play the __ devil with : cause severe damage to?
5 Automobile
6 Amin of Uganda
7 Fine and delicate?
8 Behind at sea?
9 Reasonable target for criticism (4,4)
10 Specialized U.N. agency
11 Riya or Sushmita?
14 South Indian snack (6,4)
16 Not so young any more? (1,3,4,2)
20 Indian leavened bread
22 Playback singer ___ Narayan
23 Continental coin
24 An ancient seaport of Phoenicia?
25 Dickensian villain Uriah ___
26 Support or strengthen, as from beneath
28 Being at the middle
29 Understanding term? (1,3)
34 Physical & mental well-being
38 Famous
40 Not many (1,3)
42 The ___ of Ancient Mariner : S. T. Coleridge's epic poem?
43 Large book
44 Fast card game
45 Auto Flight Sys.
46 Imaging technique used as a diagnostic aid
47 Lyricist Gershwin
48 Mumbai's terminus



SUDOKU

				6	1	7	4	
9	7			3				
4								6
	9				3			
7	3						5	4
			5				8	
2								1
				1			9	5
	1	8	9	4				

Answer to previous puzzle

3	9	8	1	4	7	2	6	5
2	6	7	9	5	8	1	3	4
1	5	4	3	6	2	7	9	8
4	1	3	6	9	5	8	7	2
6	2	9	8	7	4	5	1	3
8	7	5	2	3	1	9	4	6
5	8	6	4	1	9	3	2	7
7	3	1	5	2	6	4	8	9
9	4	2	7	8	3	6	5	1

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

KR KQ QIESRKESQ RUS USKVUR IX

TKQLIE RI XSKVO QRNBKLKRP.

TODAY'S CLUE: K EQUALS I

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: The greatest pleasure in life is doing what people say you cannot do.

MOVIE LOVERS

NOW SHOWING - SINGLE SCREEN THEATRES

- **Gayathri Theatre** — Ph: 2443568
  Ondu Sarala Premakathe (K) - 4 Shows
- **Mahadeshwara Theatre** — Mob: 99008-20093
  Just Pass (K) - 4 Shows
- **Lido Theatre** — Ph: 2420885
  Just Pass (K) - 4 Shows
- **Sangam Theatre** — Ph: 2520494
  Upadhyaksha (K) - 4 Shows
- **Woodlands Theatre** — Ph: 2422871
  Kaatera (K) - 4 Shows
- **Balaji Theatre** — Ph: 2497199
  Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya (H) - 4 Shows
- **Thibbadevi Theatre** — Ph: 2452958
  Eagle (Te) - 4 Shows
- **Padma Theatre** — Ph: 2521923
  Eagle (Te) - 4 Shows
- **Rajkamal Theatre** — Ph: 2423554
  Lal Salaam (Ta) - 4 Shows
- **Prabha Theatre** — Mob: 98454-14691
  Pranayam (K) - 4 Shows

DRC CINEMAS — Ph: 4240422, 4241800

Upadhyaksha (K)	(S-1)	10.10 am, 1.10 pm
	(S-3)	4.10 pm
Eagle (Te)	(S-1)	4.05 pm, 7.10 pm, 10.15 pm
Pranayam (K)	(S-2)	10.30 am
Just Pass (K)	(S-2)	1.20 pm
Fighter (H-2D)	(S-2)	4.00 pm
Premalu (Ma)	(S-2)	7.15 pm
Aneshwashippin Kandethum (Ma)	(S-2)	10.15 pm
Teri Baatoon Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya (H)	(S-3)	10.40 am, 7.15 pm, 9.55 pm
Lover (Ta)	(S-3)	1.20 pm
Ondu Sarala Prema Kathe (K)	(S-4)	10.10 am, 7.10 pm
Lal Salaam (Ta)	(S-4)	1.10 pm, 4.10 pm
Yatra 2 (Te)	(S-4)	10.00 pm

MYSURU VISION CINEMAS — Ph: 0821 - 2973519

Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya (H)	:	10.10 am, 12.55 pm 6.50 pm, 9.35 pm
Lal Salaam (Ta)	:	10.20am,3.40pm,6.25pm,9.30pm
Maaye and Company (K)	:	10.20 am
Just Pass (K)	:	10.25 am, 3.50 pm
Naguvina Hoogala Mele (K)	:	12.20 pm
Upadhyaksha (K)	:	1.00 pm, 4.00 pm, 6.40 pm
Ondu Sarala Premakathe (K)	:	1.10 pm, 9.20 pm
Juni (K)	:	2.45 pm
Pranayam (K)	:	5.20 pm
Kaatera (K)	:	7.55 pm

PVR CINEMAS — 4K Dolby 7.1

Nexus Centre City Mall, 2nd Floor. Mob: 8951357139

Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya (H)	:	9.50 am, 1 pm, 3.20 pm 4.10 pm, 7.20 pm, 10.30 pm
Fighter (H-2D)	:	11.15 am, 6.50 pm
Fighter (H-3D)	:	10:15 pm
Lal Salaam (Ta)	:	11.40 am, 7.05 pm, 10.00 pm
Upadhyaksha (K)	:	11.50 am, 3 pm, 6.20 pm
Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani (H)	:	12 noon
Lover (Ta)	:	12.15 pm, 6.40 pm
Trailers Screening Show	:	2.40 pm
Ondu Sarala Premakathe (K)	:	2.55 pm, 10.20 pm
Eagle (Te)	:	3.20 pm, 9.45 pm
Just Pass (K)	:	4.10 pm
Premam (Ma)	:	6.05 pm
Anweshippin Kandethum (Ma)	:	9.30 pm

1st Floor, Garuda Mall. Mob: 9901373210

Lal Salaam (Ta)	:	9.20 am, 3.55 pm, 10.30 pm
Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya (H)	:	9.20 am, 12.30 pm, 3.40 pm 6.50 pm, 10.00 pm
Trailers Screening Show	:	12.00 noon
Fighter (H-3D)	:	12.10 pm
Eagle (Te)	:	12.35 pm, 7.10 pm
Upadhyaksha (K)	:	12.40 pm, 10.15 pm
Juni (K)	:	3.35 pm
Ondu Sarala Premakathe (K)	:	3.50 pm, 6.35 pm
Premalu (Ma)	:	7.00 pm
Lover (Ta)	:	9.45 pm

Mysuru District Master Athletes for National Championship

The athletes of Mysore District Masters Athletic Association (MDMAA) — Madappa Yogendra (Captain of the team), Vijayashankar, Dr. K.S. Raghunandan, H.L. Chandrashekar, N. Manju, S. Amarnath, S. Manjunath, Srikantesha, G. Srinivasaiah, Narasima Prasad, Shashidhar, P.G. Chandrashekar, G. Archana, N. Shobha, T.K. Kusuma, T.S. Subbalakshmi, B.C. Parvathi, H.N. Sujatha, Manjamma and C. Jayanthi — will be representing Karnataka State in the 44th National Masters Athletics Championship to be held at Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex, Pune, from Feb. 13 to 17. They were distributed track suits by journalsts Amshi Prasanna Kumar and Narasimha Murthy in city recently. MDMAA Hon. Secretary P.G. Satyanarayan,Vice-Presedents C.N. Ganesh and K.N. Somashekar, Senior Joint Secretary M.P. Chandrashekar, Joint Secretary M.M. Nanaiah, EC Members B.K. Somashekar and M.S. Mahesh, Subba Shetty, T.K. Kusuma and other members were present.

EVENTS TODAY (FEB. 12)

- **Coffee City:** 'Twilight Whispers of Hampi - Photography Expo' by Shivashankar Banagar, Neralu-Belaku Gallery, Coffee City, Vijayanagar 2nd Stage, **up to 9 pm.**
- **Nrutya Vidyapeeta - Academy of Classical Dance and Indian Arts, Mysuru:** 14th Annual Day celebrations 'Nartana Vrukshaavali - 2024' and 'Sri Ramayana Darshanam,' conferring of 'Bharata Kesari Award' on retd. ASI - CRPF K.G. Thangamma, Kannada Rajyotsava awardee Guru Vidushi Chandramathi A. Rao inaugurates the event, Holenarasipura's Swarna Educational Institution Principal Shobha Balakrishna and L&T Technology Services Manager G.K. Kamala special guests; Inauguration and Pratibha Puraskar presentation - Honouring of exam toppers, **4.30 pm;** Nartana Vrukshaavali - 2024 - Choreography and Dance Direction by Guru Vidu. C.N. Anitha, Bharatanatyam series from the students of Nrutya Vidyapeeta, music ensemble - Vidu. Ramya Rajesh (natuvanga), Nayana Nagaraj (vocal), Vid. G.T. Swamy (mridanga) and Vid. Thandavamurthy (violin), **5 pm;** Bharatan Kesari Award Ceremony, **6.30 pm;** 'Sri Ramayana Darshanam' by Guru Vidu. C.N. Anitha and Vidwat students, music ensemble - Vidu. Nishchitha (natuvanga), Vid. Rohit Bhat Uppoor, Bengaluru (vocal), Vid. P. Janardhana Rao, Bengaluru (mridanga), Vid. Rakesh Sudhir, Mysuru (flute), Kalamandira, **4.30 pm.**
- **Gayana Sabha, Mysuru:** Hindustani Classical Music Concert - Sarod recital by Sougata Roy Chowdhury from Kolkata, accompanied by Bhimashankar Bidanur on tabla, Ganabharathi, Kuvempunagar, **6 pm.**

Sougata Roy Chowdhury

- **Sanchalana Mysuru, Tourism Department, Kannada & Culture Directorate, Bengaluru and Dream Buzz Foundation:** Inauguration of 5-day Sanchalana Children Theatre and Folk Festival, MLA K. Harishgowda, University of Mysore Department of Studies in Journalism and Mass Communication Chairperson Prof. M.S. Sapna, Department of Kannada and Culture Joint Director V.S. Mallikarjunaswamy, Rangayana Deputy Director Nirmala Mathapati, actor Mandya Ramesh, Dream Buzz Foundation Co-ordinator M.P. Pooja, Sanchalana Mysuru President Deepak Mysore and Children Theatre Festival Co-ordinator Thyagaraju Devarahalli will be present; Folk performance 'Desi Vaibhava' by the students of Ayama Academy, Mysuru; Staging of play 'Hebbala' by students of Natana Rangashale, authored by B.V. Jayatheertha and directed by Mandya Ramesh, Kirurangamandira (Mini Theatre), Kalamandira premises, **6.30 pm.**

INOX — LIVE the MOVIE

Mall of Mysore - Mob: 7829999465

Upadhyaksha (K)	(S-2)	12.50 pm, 7.15 pm
	(S-4)	3.35 pm
Lal Salaam (Ta)	(S-2)	9.40 am, 4.05 pm
	(S-3)	9.30 pm
Eagle (Te)	(S-2)	10.30 pm; (S-3) 2.25 pm
Fighter (H)	(S-4)	12.05 pm
Teri Batoon Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya (H)	(S-1)	9.20 am, 12.30 pm, 3.40 pm 6.50 pm, 10.00 pm
Anweshippin Kandethum (Ma)	(S-4)	10.00 pm
Ondu Sarala Prema Kathe (K)	(S-3)	11.15 am; (S-4) 6.50 pm
Lover (Ta)	(S-3)	6.25 pm

INOX Centro Mysore - Mob: 9606976757

Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya (H)	:	9.50 am, 1.00 pm, 4.10 pm 7.20 pm, 10.30 pm
Yatra 2 (Te)	:	10.00 am, 7.10 pm
Lover (Ta)	:	10.25 am, 4.05 pm
Upadhyaksha (K)	:	11.00 am, 6.15 pm
Lal Salaam (Ta)	:	12.55 pm, 10.10 pm
Just Pass (K)	:	1.30 pm
Trailers Screening Show	:	2.15 pm
Eagle (Te)	:	2.55 pm
Juni (K)	:	4.25 pm
Pranayam (K)	:	7.25 pm
Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (H)	:	9.30 pm
Premalu (Ma)	:	10.20 pm

NOTE: Movie timings published here are subject to sudden change by the theatre managements. The films are also liable to be changed in multiplexes if there are no minimum audience of 15.

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3. ಜೂನಿಯರ್ ಮೆಕಾನಿಕ್ಸ್ (4 No.)
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